(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the above actions shifts the burden to the future; and

(c) if so, what remedial action has been planned to meet the eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (c) The Global prices of crude oil and petroleum products since 2004, have remained high and volatile. The price of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market fluctuates on daily basis.

As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in hardship to the common man, the retail selling prices of petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG have not been increased in tandem with the international oil prices and Government continues to provide subsidy support to PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG.

The Government has adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing between the Government and the oil PSUs to protect the interest of vulnerable sections of society. In this context, Government had issued oil bonds to the extent of Rs. 11,500 crore and Rs. 24,121 crore during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively to OMCs as part of compensation for the under-recoveries incurred by them. For the year 2007-08. Government has approved the issuance of oil bonds to the tune of 42.7% of total under-recoveries. The upstream oil companies have also contributed Rs. 14,000 crore and Rs. 20,507 corre during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively and Rs. 8,788 crore during the period Apr-Sep' 07, by offering discounts on crude oil and petroleum products. The prices of sensitive petroleum products are fixed by the OMCs in consultation with the Government. The Government is closely monitoring international oil prices and will continue to protect interest of consumers.

Tourism development in Kerala

1603. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals of tourism development in the State of Kerala are pending with Centre for necessary clearance;

(b) if so, the details of the project pending for clearance; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in issuing clearance of the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest is primariily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administration themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance on the basis of project proposals prioritized in consultation with the State Governments.

During 2007-08, 12 proposals have received from the Kerala Government and details of these proposals are given in the Statement (*See* below.) Proposals which are complete in all respect as per guidelines are processed on *inter-se* priority basis and funds released subject to availability under the respective head.

During the current financial year, the following proposals have already been sanctioned for Central Financial Assistance to the Government of Kerala:

1. Destination Development of Wayanad for Rs. 201.72 lakhs.

2. Development of Kodungallur Heritage Tourism Circuit for Rs. 361.75 lakhs.

3. Development of Pathiramanal Bio Park for Rs. 499.61 lakhs.

Statement

LIST OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM KERALA GOVERNMENT DURING 2007-08

1. Development of Kalamandalam as a tourist destination.
2. Development of Kasaragod & Bekal.
3. Development of Kozilkode as a destination-Sarovaram Wetland Nature Park.
4. Development of Farm Tourism in the Estates of Plantation Corp. of Kerala Ltd.
5. Onam and Nishagandha Festivals.
6. Pooram Festival.
7. Destination Development of Elephant Park at Punnathoor (Additional work).
8. Development of Mangalam Dam as a Tourist Destination.
9. Development of Kottakkummu in Malappuram as a Tourist Destination.
10. Development of Wayanad in Kerala.
11. Developmment of Kodungallur Heritage Circuit, Kerala.
12. Development of Pathiramanal Bio Park, Kerala.

Tourist places in Jharkhand

†1604. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about a number of attractive tourist places in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has submitted any proposal to the Central Government or has demanded assistance for the development of these tourist spots;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether the Central Government intends to take any *suo-moto* initiative in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under the schemes for Product/ Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects. Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respects are examined on the basis of scheme guidelines and *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under the respective heads.

A list of projects sanctioned to the State of Jharkhand during the Tenth Plan period and the current financial year is given at statement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.